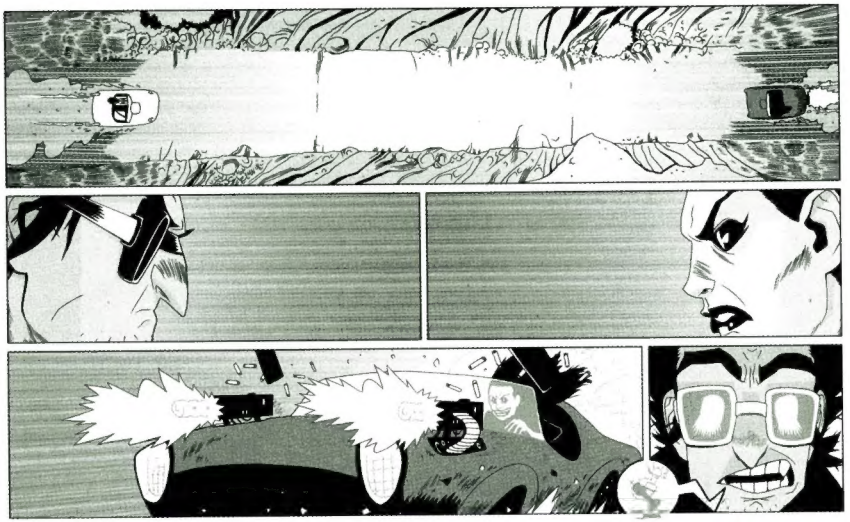


Joy to the World

Some writers and artists dream of creating the next great superhero. Others hope to scare readers out of their wits. Still others dream of inviting readers into surreal landscapes far removed from our own worlds.

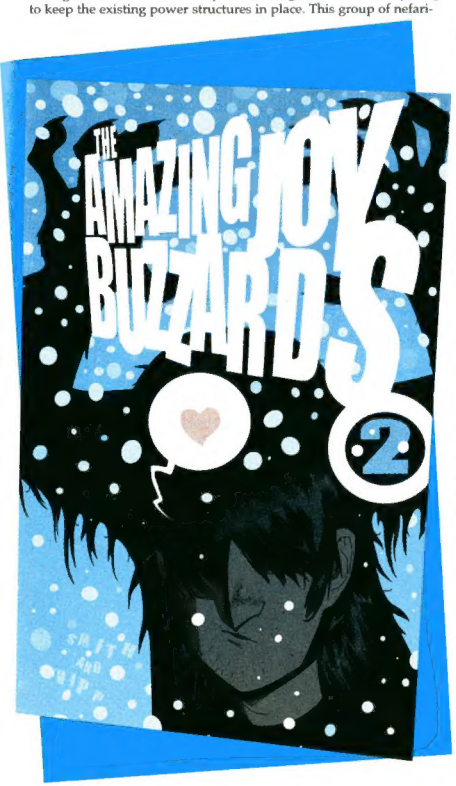
Mark Smith and *Dan Hipp*... well, they dream of rock and roll fame and glory—with a dash of adventure, of course.

No, Smith and Hipp aren't hopeful air guitarists or karaoke kids fantasizing of their own musical stardom.... instead, it's their fictional rock band The Amazing Joy Buzzards that dwells in their fantasies—and they're sharing those fantasies with the comic-book-reading world in their second miniseries from Image.

So who *are* the Amazing Joy Buzzards? Don't let the name mislead you—they're *not* a group of anthropomorphic rockers. "The Amazing Joy Buzzards are the world's greatest rock & roll adventure band," writer *Mark Smith* said, "consisting of lead singer and guitarist Biff Ashby, drummer Gabe Carlyle, and bassist Stevo Vargas—and of course, their bodyguard/lucha libre genie El Campeon. The Amazing Joy Buzzards travel on tour, solving mysteries, fighting monsters, thwarting evil, and getting into all kinds of supernatural adventures. Their manager Dalton Warner, unknown to them, works for the Central Intelligence Agency and he is using the band as a front for his own secret agenda."

A rock band and a Mexican wrestler?... "El Campeon is their good natured mystical Mexican Wrestler friend who happens to travels on tour with the kids. El Campeon is also a genie who comes to people in their time of need and can be summoned by an amulet that Gabe wears upon shouting the magic words *'Go El Campeon Go!'* at which point he will spiral out in a cloud of smoke and lay the smack down on the bad guys. We'll find out a lot more about El Campeon's origins in later volumes as well as his larger purpose and reason for being teamed up with the Amazing Joy Buzzards. Their manager, Dalton Warner, thinks that El Campeon is part of the boys hyperactive Imaginations and doesn't believe that he exists."

Of course, any group of adventurers needs adversaries—and the Amazing Joy Buzzards have the Spider Syndicate. "The Spiders, who are supernatural mod hipsters, are much more of idealists from the '60s who want to conquer the world to help it. The Joy Buzzards manager doesn't see it that way at all, though, and he'll do anything to keep the existing power structures in place. This group of nefarious supernatural all-stars consists of the Puppeteer Ivep; Galesh the man of a thousand cuts; Donovan the Devil Mummy; and El Chupa, who is the arch nemesis of El Campeon."



A rock band... a Mexican wrestler genie... an evil syndicate... a devil mummy... El Chupa... you'll be forgiven if you're hearing some familiar Scooby Doo riffs echoing through the corners of your mind right about now. "I'd say the book draws a lot of influences from, Saturday morning cartoons, and a lot of the energy from ***A Hard Day's Night***, blending adventure and music in a likeable way," Smith said.

And what about that famous rock and roll star who dreamed of working undercover with the FBI at one point? "Actually, Elvis films were a part of the inspiration for the series, so I'd say yes inspiration was drawn from reports of Elvis wanting to work for the FBI. That's such a great story, and we reference it at the beginning of ***The Amazing Joy Buzzards Vol. #1***, and it will be worked in a bit later."

Just how does a rock and roll band avoid the public spotlight long enough to get involved in offbeat adventures? "The first volume starts off with the band having been together for about five years so there are a lot of previous adventures. They've made a lot of enemies over the years and a lot of people come out of the woodwork looking for them. Also Dalton, their manager, has his own adventures on the side, which they get tangled up in, as well as El Campeon, who has Mexican Wrestlers, Chupacabras, and various monsters coming after him to challenge him for his title. The band being in the celebrity spotlight provides a perfect vehicle for them moving around on tour to places like Europe, Costa Rica, and Egypt for their upcoming adventures.

"The musical angle is very important, but it's really more of a McGuffin to move the action along—but the music will tie into the much larger scheme of things on a grand scale as readers will be delighted to find out, so the book will stay true to its musical roots."

What are the creative origins of ***The Amazing Joy Buzzards***? "The series came about four years ago in college, where I was notorious for doodling during film lectures. During one lecture, I came up with the idea for the most explosive book that I could think of. I had the Jungle Book stuck in my head, with that scene where the vultures—who are played by the fab four—are goofing around when lighting strikes the tree they are in. With that, the Amazing Joy Buzzards were born.

"I sat down in a coffee shop and wrote down all influences that I wanted to bring into the project. The book's the result of a lifetime of 60's television, James Bond films, and the desire to put out the most rockin' comic book of our time. It's the book that Dan and I have wanted to read our whole lives."

And speaking of Dan—how'd artist *Dan Hipp* become attached to the project? "I first saw Dan's work at the San Diego ComiCon years ago and knew I couldn't let him go. His work had the energy I had been looking for, so there was no question that he was the perfect guy for ***The Amazing Joy Buzzards.***"

A writer, an artist, a concept—all they needed now was a publisher... and that's where Image came into the picture. ".Dan and I wanted to do the book with a company that would allow us full control. *Jim Mahfood* mentioned we should give Image a shot and pointed us to the direction of *Eric Stephenson*. Before we knew it we were smack dab in the front of ***Previews*** as part of the Image line!

"Image is all about great, diverse comics. There truly is something for every type of reader under the sun over at Image. Through them, we've gotten great exposure that the creators of many black and white titles at other companies only dream of."

The Amazing Joy Buzzards began its run earlier this year, but readers won't have to haunt the back issue bins to catch up on the back story. "***The Amazing Joy Buzzards Vol. One*** is available in trade from Image, and it comes in at 193 pages for only $11.99 — that's *such* a good deal! However, readers don't have to have read the first series to understand the current series—they'll get it if they start with ***Amazing Joy Buzzards Volume 2 #1,*** but some stuff will be funnier and more rewarding if they've read the first series."

Is there any big difference in tone or direction between volumes one and two? "***Amazing Joy Buzzards Volume Two*** doesn't so much change the focus as it expands on the world we've created," Smith said. "Characters who popped up in the background of the first volume become a huge part of the story. For example, the Spider Syndicate from issue the third issue of volume one takes on a *much* larger role that will set the course for the entire series."

Smith is hopeful that the trade and the new series will help ***The Amazing Joy Buzzards*** find sales success to equal the critical success the book has already achieved. And if readers try it and like it, Smith promises that he and Hipp have much more ***Joy*** to share with the world. "I've had a clear picture of where the series will be going since I first sketched it out. Now that we're up and running, ideas tend to pop out of nowhere. People don't lie when they say that characters can tend to take over and write themselves. ***The Amazing Joy Buzzards*** is no exception. Sure, I know where I want them to go—but in the end, it's up to Gabe, Biff, Stevo, and El Campeon." And, of course, the readers!

Amazing Joy Buzzards v2 #1, a $2.99 comic, is scheduled for mid-October release.

by Cliff Biggers

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

Coming Comics—DC in November

November brings DC's second ***All Star*** series, ***All Star Superman*** by *Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely*. The duo responsible for ***JLA—Earth-2*** reunite to strip down the Man of Steel to his timeless, essential elements. Their series kicks off with a 12-issue story arc touching on all the classic aspects of the Superman mythology, starting with a daring rescue of a doomed group of helionauts on the surface of the sun. The massive amounts of solar radiation affect Superman in a way no one could possibly anticipate — except Lex Luthor!

The Villains United want a piece of Gotham, and Black Mask is just the man to deliver it to them. Batman has his hands full defending the city — but before he can neutralize Deathstroke and company, Red Hood takes matters into his own hands in ***Batman #647***, by *Judd Winick, Doug Mahnke, & Tom Nguyen*.

Matt Wagner takes the Dark Knight through his sophomore season in ***Batman and the Monster Men***, the first of two Wagner-created Batman miniseries. Batman has spent his first year fighting organized crime — but nothing thus far in his early career as the Caped Crusader has prepared him for the new menace facing Gotham: super-powered villains!

Alfred Pennyworth is about to be arrested for murder, Hush is one step from discovering the secrets behind the Clayfaces' powers, and Batman's last hope is locked away in a tiny corner of Arkham. A nasty surprise is waiting for the Dark Knight, and Alfred's role in the murder is revealed in ***Batman: Gotham Knights #71*** by *A.J. Lieberman, Al Barrionuevo, & Bit*.

Will Pfeifer & Chris Weston kick off the three-part "Blaze of Glory" in ***Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #197***. A criminal with something to prove stalks Batman. But despite the crook's lack of resources, he proves to be not merely elusive, but deadly to the Dark Knight — and all of Gotham!

From the pages of ***Villains United*** and ***Identity Crisis*** comes the deadly new Calculator — and he's on the hunt for Oracle in ***Birds of Prey #88***..

Captain Marvel makes a guest appearance in *Greg Rucka & Steve Lieber's* ***Gotham Central #37***, an ***Infinite Crisis*** tie-in. When a catastrophic cosmic event occurs over Gotham, the detectives discover just what being in over their heads really means!

Green Arrow guest-stars in *Geoff Johns, Carlos Pacheco, & Jesus Merino's* ***Green Lantern #7***, an ***Infinite Crisis*** tie-in. This issue features a villain who's had devastating effects on the life of Hal Jordan — and only the combined efforts of Hal Jordan and Oliver Queen can combat this monster!

Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray, Ron Randall, Art Thibert, & Waldon Wong present a prequel to ***Rann/Thanagar War*** in ***Hawkman #46***. Hawkman and Hawkgirl battle Satana's animal men during a daring heist and Brother Eye unleashes an OMAC on St. Roch as they prepare to leave for deep space! Plus, Hawkman reflects on his last meeting with the Atom.

The biggest comics event of the year is just getting started! In *Geoff Johns, Phil Jimenez, & Andy Lanning's* ***Infinite Crisis #2***, the heroes are divided as chaos erupts across the world and the universe — from Paradise Island to the farthest reaches of space. But what strange new force prepares to help? And, more important, why? Plus, a time-lost hero returns in search of an object that will turn the tide of one of the many wars. Guest-starring Supergirl, Alan Scott, Metamorpho, Animal Man, Firestorm, Power Girl and dozens of others!

The saga of Jonah Hex — the mysterious bounty hunter and thinking man's killer — continues in ***Jonah Hex***, penned by *Justin Gray & Jimmy Palmiotti* with art by *Luke Ross*. When a millionaire's only son is kidnapped, Hex is called on to track down and recover the boy. But a simple missing person case turns into a hunt for vengeance as Hex unleashes his special brand of justice on the unsuspecting culprits in this classic Western drama.

Jen Van Meter, Patrick Oliffe, & Ruy Jose spotlight the Injustice Society in "Honor Among Thieves," a three-parter that begins in ***JSA Classified #5***. While the JSA investigates the appearance of the mysterious Prometheus key in their headquarters, the Wizard approaches Icicle with a grave request that will change their fortunes forever.

Robin and the Veteran scramble to save Blüdhaven from an all-out OMAC invasion in ***Robin #144***. As the Veteran's crack team struggles valiantly to toe the line, Robin must break away to save Darla Aquista… even though she's sworn to kill him!

The Seven Soldiers saga continues with two new books in November. First, *Yanick Paquette & Michael Bair* join writer extraordinaire *Grant Morrison* for ***Seven Soldiers: The Bulleteer***! Obsessed with the idea of becoming a famous super-hero and preserving his beautiful wife's youth, Professor Lance Harrower invents Smartskin — a steel-hard living fiber which bonds with skin collagen. When his experiments go awry, Harrower is suffocated under a coating of steel skin. His wife Alix survives the horrific accident only to find herself an outcast and a freak. Now jobless, alone, and encased in super-hard, living metal, she is a truly reluctant superhuman. Then, in ***Seven Soldiers: Frankenstein***, Morrison teams with *Doug Mahnke* to present the story of a boy who becomes the unwitting vessel of an ancient curse, resulting in a steam-powered, gun-totin', Milton-quotin' Frankenstein monster you'll never forget!

Jeph Loeb, Ian Churchill, & Norm Rapmund pit the Girl of Steel against the JLA in ***Supergirl #4***. So what could cause her to engage in a battle she dare not win? What horrible truth has Lex Luthor uncovered that will change the Girl of Steel forever? The answers are in here!

Supergirl breaks the news to Kal that she's heading off into space with Donna Troy. Will their final farewell be cut short by a new and more deadly Blackrock? Find out in ***Superman #223***, an ***Infinite Crisis*** tie-in from *Mark Verheiden, Ed Benes, & Mariah Benes*.

The Man of Steel is spotlighted in ***Superman: Secret Files 2005*** (so who else did you figure would be featured in a book with this name?). Discover the difference between Superman and Batman. Plus: a retelling of Superman's origin, profiles of Superman's friends and foes, and more!

Jason Rusch is about to experience the next phase in his evolution in ***Firestorm #19***, an ***Infinite Crisis*** tie-in from *Stuart Moore, Jamal Igle, & Rob Stull*.

Geoff Johns, Tony Daniel, & Marlo Alquiza kick off a two-part story featuring the return of Brother Blood in ***Teen Titans #30***. As a result of the magic wars in Day of Vengeance, the barrier keeping Brother Blood trapped in hell is broken and he's back … with some former Teen Titans!

Paradise Island comes under attack by OMACs in ***Wonder Woman #223***, an ***Infinite Crisis*** tie-in by *Greg Rucka & Rags Morales*. But even with Wonder Woman's help, the Amazons must make a fateful decision… one that will change Diana's life, and mission, forever.

DC collected editions for November include:

- ***Day of Vengeance***, collecting ***Day of Vengeance #s 1-6, Action Comics #826, Adventures of Superman #639, & Superman #216***;
- ***I Can't Believe It's Not the Justice League***, a trade collection of the *Keith Giffen-J.M.DeMatteis-Kevin Maguire-Joe Rubinstein* story arc from ***JLA Classified #s 4-9***;
- ***Legion of Super-Heroes Volume One: Teenage Revolution***, collecting *Mark Waid & Barry Kitson's* Legion tales from ***Legion #s 1-6*** and the preview story from ***Teen Titans/Legion Special #1***;

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Comic Shop News, Inc.

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•***Manhunter Volume One: Street Justice***, collecting ***Manhunter #s 1-6***;
•***The OMAC Project***, a trade paperback compilation featuring ***Countdown to Infinite Crisis***, ***OMAC Project #s 1-6***, and ***Wonder Woman #219***;
•***Showcase Presents Jonah Hex Volume One***, a 528-page black-and-white phonebook-sized compendium featuring the gunslinger's tales from ***All-Star Western #s 2-8 & 10-11*** and ***Weird Western Tales #s 12-14 & 16-33***;
•***The Spirit Archives Volume 17***, featuring *Will Eisner* ***Spirit*** section from 7/4/1948 to 12/26/1948;
•***Superman: In the Name of Gog***, collecting ***Action Comics #s 820-825***;
•***Teen Titans: The Future Is Now***, collecting ***Teen Titans #s 16-23 & Titans/Legion Special #1***; and
•***T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents Archives Volume 6***, collecting the final issues of the acclaimed Tower superteam series produced by *Wally Wood, Steve Ditko, Gil Kane, Reed Crandall,* and others.

Coming Comics— Mad/DC in November

Mad kicks off a brand-new magazine targeted at younger readers. ***Mad Kids***, produced by the Usual Gang of Idiots, features games, puzzles, interviews, posters and lots of laughs — plus the all new adventures of Spy vs. Spy Jr.!

Coming Comics— CMX/DC in November

Matsuyuki Takeru's life takes strange turns when he discovers a half-sister that he never knew about... then a strange boy appears, claiming to be a warrior reborn who must fight an epic battle against forces of evil. Suddenly, fantasy becomes reality for Matsuyuki in ***Tower of the Future Volume One*** by *Hiwatari Saki.*

Coming Comics— WildStorm/DC in November

Brian Wood joins with Italian artist *Riccardo Burchielli* to present ***DMZ***, a new monthly series about the ultimate embedded war journalist trapped in a most unlikely war zone: the streets of New York City. In the near future, America's worst nightmare has

come true. With military adventurism overseas bogging down the Army and National Guard, the U.S. government mistakenly neglects the very real threat of anti-establishment militias scattered across the 50 states. Like a sleeping giant, Middle America rises up and violently pushes it way to the shining seas, coming to a standstill at the line in the sand — Manhattan or, as the world now knows it, the DMZ. This is the world of Matty Roth, an aspiring photojournalist who lands what he thinks of as his dream job... but that dream may become a nightmare.

ABC A-Z continues with ***Greyshirt & Cobweb***, a volume that explores the world of Indigo City's man of mystery and reveals just how steamy crime fighting can be.

Danger Girl returns in an all-new miniseries by *Andy Hartnell & Nick Bradshaw,* with covers by *J. Scott Campbell.* ***Danger Girl: Back in Black*** kicks off with the theft of a powerful and mysterious Native American artifact, prompting Danger Girls Abbey Chase and Sydney Savage to go undercover and burn rubber to infiltrate an all-girl biker gang!

WildStorm collected editions for November include:
•***Ocean***, collecting the SF series by *Warren Ellis, Chris Sprouse, & Karl Story;* and
•***Smax***, collecting the five-issue miniseries by *Alan Moore, Zander Cannon, & Andrew Currie.*

Coming Comics— Vertigo/DC in November

Darren Aronofsky joins with artist *Kent Williams* to present ***The Fountain***, a graphic novel linked to Aronofsky's upcoming film of the same name—a graphic novel that stands as "the ultimate director's cut," so to speak, of the film that Aronofsky wishes he could have made, had budgets allowed. ***The Fountain*** crisscrosses through three distinct time periods: 1535, during an ancient Mayan war; the present day, following one doctor's desperate search for the cure for cancer; and the far future through the vast exotic reaches of space. Interweaving these three periods, The Fountain follows Tomas — warrior, doctor, explorer — as he feverishly tries to beat death and prolong the life of the woman he loves.

Vertigo collected editions for November include:
•***The Losers: Close Quarters***, reprinting ***Losers #s 20-25***; and
•***Y—The Last Man: Girl on Girl***, collecting ***Y #s 32-36***.

Coming from DC Direct

The ***Batman Black and White Statue*** line continues with a ***Mike Mignola***-inspired statue sculpted by Jonathan Matthews. The statue measures approximately 7.5" tall and is packaged in a black-and-white box. (April 2006)

A famous moment in Superman history is captured in the ***Departure from Krypton Mini-Statue***, designed and sculpted by *William Paquet.* This hand-painted cold-cast porcelain mini-statue depicts the launching of the rocket bearing the infant Kal-El as he departs his dying homeworld for a new life on Earth. (April 2006)

The ***Looney Tunes Golden Collection Action Figure Series One*** features ***"The Scarlet Pumpernickel" Sylvester***, ***"The Scarlet Pumpernickel" Daffy Duck***, ***"What's Opera, Doc?" Elmer Fudd***, and ***"What's Opera, Doc?" Bugs Bunny***, each packages with accessories, a backdrop card, a title card, and more. (April 2006)

The ***JLA Classified Series One Action Figure*** line includes ***Aquaman***, ***The Flash***, ***Green Lantern/John Stewart***, ***Martian Manhunter*** and ***Wonder Woman*** in all-new original sculpts. (April 2006)

Ed McGuinness's art is the inspiration for ***Superman/ Batman: Public Enemies Series One Action Figures***. This series features ***Batman***, ***Shazam!***, ***Superman***, ***Captain Atom***, ***& Metallo***, complete with ***Superman/Batman*** logo bases. (April 2006)

DC and Japanese toy manufacturer Yamato join forces to bring a limited number of ***Batman by Kia Asamiya Action Figures Wave 2*** to American collectors. This series includes detailed sculpts of ***Batman***, ***Evil Batman***, ***Harley Quinn***, ***& Poison Ivy***. (October 2005)

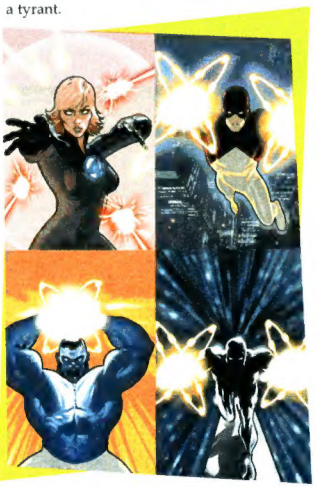
DC's poster line expand with the addition of ***Green Lantern: Rebirth***, featuring art by *Ethan Van Sciver;* and ***JLA Classified***, featuring art by *Ed McGuinness & Dexter Vines. (April 2006)*

Coming Comics— Marvel in November

The last time Marvel produced an ***Amazing Fantasy #15***, they introduced a certain webslinger. This time around, they're presenting a new generation of heroes in a 48-page issue that presents five new stories by a veritable football team's worth of creators.

The Black Panther teams up with Luke Cage in "Two the Hard Way," a four-parter by *Reginald Hudlin & Scot Eaton* that begins in ***Black Panther #10***. When King T'Challa asks for Cage's expertise in solving a little problem, it's got the makings of a serious team-up, with cameos galore from across the Marvel Universe.

Ed Brubaker & Pablo Raimondi turn their attention to Marvel's most complex villain in ***Books of Doom***. Witness Doom's life from his earliest moments to the day he took the throne of Latveria in this revealing examination of how an innocent boy grows up to be a tyrant.



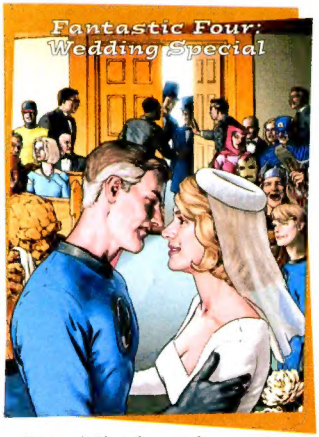
Captain Universe is back, seeking out new hosts in the Marvel Universe. Beginning in November, the Uni-Power is looking for superhero hosts as it seeks to save itself from an enemy bent on its destruction. The excitement begins with ***Captain Universe/Hulk***, produced by *Jay Faerber & Carlos Magno;* ***Captain Universe/Daredevil***, by Faerber & *Paul Siqueira,* ***Captain Universe/X-23***, by *Christopher Yost, Craig Kyle, & Francis Portela;* ***Captain Universe/Invisible Woman***, by *Jeff Parker & James Raiz;* and ***Captain Universe/Silver Surfer***, by Faerber *& Carlos Magna.*

House of M is over... and that means it's time for ***Decimation: House of M—The Day After***, by *Chris Claremont & Randy Green.* It was the worst day in X-Men history. How do the X-Men pick up the pieces in a world that has completely changed?

The Hulk guest-stars in ***Fantastic Four #533***, produced by *J. Michael Straczynski & Mike McKone.* When a doomsday weapon manufactured by Hydra turns up in the Nevada desert, there's only one man the authorities can ask to go in and defuse it—Bruce Banner! And what quartet do you

suppose they call on when things go horribly wrong?...

Fantastic Four: Wedding Special, celebrating the fortieth anniversary of that fateful event that showcased ***FF Annual #3***, features a new story by *Karl Kesel & Drew Johnson* that begins when Reed and Sue look back on their life together. This issue also reprints the original wedding extravaganza produced back in 1965 by *Stan Lee & Jack Kirby*.



House of M has changed the world forever. Now, from the ashes of this cataclysmic event comes a new generation... ***Generation M***. *Paul Jenkins & Ramon Bachs* exactly *how* things have changed as a group of mutants brought together by this common tragedy must fight together for a better tomorrow.

Roy Thomas & Jay Anacleto supply an all-new Invaders tale for ***Giant Size Invaders #2***, which also reprints classic Silver and Golden Age super-team adventures.

Daniel Way & Keu Cha lay the groundwork for next year's major Hulk-focused event with "Peace In Our Time," a four-parter that kicks off in ***Incredible Hulk #88***. Bruce Banner has finally found a semblance of peace. Here, in the isolated interior of Alaska, he hopes to protect the rest of humanity from The Hulk's never-ending rampage by secluding himself in self-imposed exile. Banner is confident that his plan will work—after all, who would be foolish enough to actually come looking for The Hulk? But when Nick Fury comes calling, you know there's trouble for someone involved.

The season is rapidly approaching... and that means it's time for the ***Marvel Holiday Special 2005***. The fun begins when the New Avengers battle Ultron—programmed to think he's Santa, in a tale by *Jeff Parker & Reilly Brown*! Then *Mike Carey* joins *Mike Perkins* to take the Fantastic Four on a wild ride! Finally, *Shaenon Garrity & Roger Langridge* present a truly zany holiday-themed tale that you'll have to see for yourself.

Marvel Milestones: Ultimate Spider-Man, Ultimate X-Men, Microman & Mantor the Magician presents the first general-circulation release of the hard-to-find ***Wizard 1/2*** editions of the first two series, along with the Microman/Mantor the Magician story from the Golden Age ***Human Torch #2***.

Marvel Monsters: From the Files of Ulysses Bloodstone & the Monster Hunters is a ***Handbook***—style look at some of Marvel's classic critters, from Blip to Zzutak.

Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker present a team-up that most fans never expected as Spider-Man meets Invincible in ***Marvel Team-Up #14***.

From the ashes of ***House of M*** a new Excalibur team is formed to combat the after-effects of this cataclysmic event! Witness the birth of Captain Britain's new team forming, as a sinister force already tries to tear them apart! ***New Excalibur #1***, produced by *Chris Claremont & Michael Ryan*, also stars Dazzler, Juggernaut, Nocturne and Pete Wisdom in a tale that guest-stars the X-Men.

The New X-Men undergo a refocus in ***New X-Men #20*** by *Christopher Yost, Craig Kyle, & Mark Brooks*. Spinning directly out of ***House of M #8***, the New X-Men deal with the changed world. Will X-23 join the team? Will the friendships persevere? Will the kids survive? No one is safe and not everyone will live through this incredible change in the status quo.

In preparation for next month's release of ***Spider-Man & Black Cat #4***, Marvel presents a ***Mighty Marvel Must-Haves*** collection of the first three issues by *Kevin Smith & Terry Dodson*... and it'll feature an eight-page preview of the long-overdue fourth part of the series.

Want to know who's who in the Marvel mutantverse? Then you need ***The Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe—X-Men 2005***, featuring post-***House of M*** bios of 25 Marvel mutants.

Daniel Way & Steve Dillon bring together two of the deadliest characters in the Marvel Universe in ***Punisher Vs. Bullseye #1***. The fun begins when a mob boss who survived an assault by the Punisher hires Bullseye to take out Frank Castle...

Sean McKeever & Udon continue the tale of a boy and his 'bot in ***Sentinel***, a five-issue limited series. After using his refurbished government weapon of mutant destruction to make himself popular, you'd think Juston Seyfert would be on top of the world. Instead, he's run away from home, torn up inside by the guilt brought on by his selfish acts. Now in search of his mother, who left his family at an early age, Juston must figure out what to do with his life.

"The Other—Evolve or Die" continues through ***Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man #2***, ***Marvel Knights Spider-Man #20***, & ***Amazing Spider-Man #526*** in November—and all three are written by *Reginald Hudlin* this time around. Spidey faces his biggest threat yet – a foe so insidious that he can't hope to handle it alone. With friends like Reed Richards, Stephen Strange and Hank Pym, he won't have to. But can even the world's greatest minds change the course of fate?

Ben Grimm's a star once again! *Dan Slott & Andre DiVito* kick off Ben's solo exploits in ***The Thing #1***. As readers of ***FF*** already know, the idol of millions is now worth billions! So will big bucks make a Rockefeller out of this Rocky fella? Will Ben trade in Yancy St. for Park Ave? Tune in and see,

"Silver Sable," a five-parter, kicks off in ***Ultimate Spider-Man #86***, brought to you by *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley*. The fun begins when the head of Roxxon Oil sics the world's greatest mercenary, Silver Sable, on Spider-Man to learn why the webspinner has targeted Roxxon on his nightly patrols. How violently Ms. Sable wants to handle the situation is strictly up to her. And if that's not enough, this story arc also introduces... the Ultimate Omega Red?

In the wake of ***House of M***, Marvel Girl's emotions are heating up! Faced with a future she thought was destroyed, Marvel Girl will find out just what she is really made of in "Grey's End," a three-parter by *Chris Claremont & Chris Bachalo* that begins in ***Uncanny X-Men #466***.

Daniel Way, Javier Saltares, & Mark Texeira explore Logan's post-***House of M*** existence in "Origins and Ending," a five-parter that begins in ***Wolverine #36***. In his lifetime, Logan has been both a hero and a villain, a player and a pawn... but what is he now?

Following up on the events of ***House of M*** and ***Madrox***, a new mutant team debuts in ***X-Factor #1*** by *Peter David & Ryan Sook*. X-Factor is an investigative mutant agency including Madrox—the Multiple Man, Guido—the Strong Guy, Wolfsbane—the shape-shifter, Siryn—the chorus girl, Rictor—the living earthquake, and ***Generation X's*** Monet—the pompous witch. Drawn together in the heart of District X, this rag-tag band of heroes has a lot of answers to find, and fast!

What happens when the skeletons in your closet finally break down the door and come looking for you? The X-Men are about to find out in ***X-Men: Deadly Genesis***, a six-parter by *Ed Brubaker & Trevor Hairsine*. In the wake of the tragic events of ***House of M***, the mutant community is in turmoil.. Amidst the chaos, a new enemy awakens, one whose very existence will haunt the founding members of the X-Men like nothing has before. Who is this new threat? How is he tied to Professor X's darkest secret? Cyclops, Wolverine and the others must find out soon, before they and those closest to them go mad!

Marvel collected editions for November include:

- ***Amazing Spider-Man Volume 10: New Avengers***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 519-524***;
- ***Captain Universe: Power Unimaginable***, reprinting early Captain Universe tales by Bill Mantlo, Gerry Conway, Steve ditko, Rick Leonardi, and others;
- ***Essential Marvel Two-In One Volume One***, collecting the Thing team-up tales from ***Marvel Two-In One #s 1-20, 22-25, & Annual #1*** and other adventures;
- ***Essential X-Factor Volume One***, a 568-page black-and-white phonebook-sized volume reprinting more than twenty early X-Factor tales from their own series as well as ***Avengers, FF, Thor, & Power Pack***;
- ***Excalibur Classic Volume One: The Sword Is Drawn***, reprinting the Claremont-Davis ***Excalibur #s 1-5 & The Sword Is Drawn Special***;
- ***Fantastic Four Volume 3***, a hardcover collection of ***FF #s 514-524*** by *Mark Waid & Mike Wieringo*;
- ***Marvel Knights Spider-Man Volume One HC***, collecting the first twelve issues by *Mark Millar, Terry Dodson, & Frank Cho*;
- ***Marvel Knights Spider-Man Volume 4: Wild Blue Yonder***, collecting ***Marvel Knights Spider-Man #s 13-18***;
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Fantastic Four Volume Nine***, collecting ***FF #s 82-93*** (and that makes this the penultimate Lee-Kirby ***FF Masterworks!***);
- ***New Thunderbolts Volume 2: Modern Marvels***, reprinting ***New Thunderbolts #s 7-12***;
- ***Ororo: Before the Storm***, a digest-sized compilation of the miniseries by *Mark Sumerak & Carlo Barberi*;
- ***Shanna the She-Devil***, collecting the fast-paced adventure series by *Frank Cho*;
- ***Spider-Man Vs. the Black Cat Volume One***, featuring classic Black Cat tales from the 1970s and early 1980s;
- ***Ultimate X-Men Volume 12: Hard Lessons***, collecting ***Ultimate X-Men #s 58-60 & Annual 1***;
- ***Wolverine—Enemy of the State Volume 2 HC***, collecting ***Wolverine #s 26-32***; and
- ***X-Factor Visionaries: Peter David Volume One***, collecting ***X-Factor #s 71-75***.

Ins & Outs

In: A second printing of ***Supergirl #s 1***, which follows hot on the heels of the first-day sellout of both this issue and the reprint special ***Supergirl #0***. The second edition features a pencil version of *Michael Turner's* cover art.

Out: ***Serenity #2***, which sold out of the first printings of all three covers on the day of release. A second printing looks likely, but it hasn't been officially scheduled at press-time.

Out: ***Superman/Batman: Supergirl***, the hardcover compilation of the *Jeph Loeb-Michael Turner* story arc that reintroduced the Girl of Steel. Look for the trade in late 2005-early 2006.

Out: ***Defenders #1***, the zany super-adventure by *Keith Giffen, J.M.DeMatteis, & Kevin Maguire*, sold out prior to the release of the second issue. Marvel has plans for a second printing.

Top Two-Dozen for September

ALL STAR BATMAN & ROBIN THE BOY WONDER #2

Frank Miller (W); Jim Lee & Scott Williams (A)

(DC JUL050189 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (JUL052823$29.99))

What's The Scoop?

Dick Grayson witnessed the murder of his parents, and now the orphaned acrobat unites with the man who can help him bring the killers to justice...

Why Should You Care?

It's a familiar story, but Miller adds intriguing noiresque nuances in his take—and the origin of Robin has never been more visually stunning than it is here, thanks to Lee & Williams!

DRAX THE DESTROYER #1

Keith Giffen (W); Mitch Breitweiser (A)

(Marvel JUL051879 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?

You gotta feel sorry for Alaska... they had to deal with a vampire infestation in ***30 Days of Night***, and now they're playing reluctant host to Paibok the Power Skrull, Lunatik, the Blood Brothers and Drax the Destroyer when an interstellar prison transport dumps the cosmic menaces on an isolated Alaskan town in this limited series.

Why Should You Care?

This series delivers a reinvented Drax... and there's no one this side of *Jim Starlin* who can reinterpret a cosmic menace better than *Keith Giffen*.

DAY OF VENGEANCE #6

Bill Willingham (W); Justiniano & Walden Wong (A)

(DC JUL050221 $2.50)

OMAC PROJECT #6

Greg Rucka (W); Jesus Saiz (A)

(DC JUL050246 $2.50)

RANN/THANAGAR WAR #5

Dave Gibbons (W); Ivan Reis & Marc Campos (A)

(DC JUL050247 $2.50)

VILLAINS UNITED #5

Gail Simone (W); Dale Eaglesham & Wade von Grawbadger (A)

(DC JUL050254 $2.50)

What's The Scoop?

The final fate of magic in the DC Universe is revealed; Brother Eye plays the ultimate trump card in his efforts to save the OMAC project; a cosmic warrior makes the ultimate sacrifice as new allies enter the interplanetary war; and Catman faces off against Deadshot as the quest for Mockingbird's identity continues.

Why Should You Care?

Two of DC's big four ***Countdown*** series wrap up this month, while two more reach their penultimate issues in preparation for next month's dawning ***Crisis***.

EVIL ERNIE IN SANTA FE #1

Alan Grant (W); Tommy Castillo (A)

(Devil's Due JUL052787 $2.95)

What's The Scoop?

Ernie's back—and he's more evil than ever—in this edgy, intense series that finds the evil one on a quest to determine if there's an even *greater* evil pulling the strings.

Why Should You Care?

Alan Grant presents a taut, suspenseful tale that restores the sense of menace that had been missing from Ernie's last few appearances. Splatterpunk horror fans, this book's for you!

FELL #1

Warren Ellis (W); Ben Templesmith (A)

(Image JUL051609 $1.99)

What's The Scoop?

A big-city detective gets transferred to dirty little Snowtown in this noir-esque detective melodrama that features a self-contained story in each 16-page issue.

Why Should You Care?

Move over, *Mickey Spillane & Frank Miller—Warren Ellis* is chewin' up the scenery and spittin' out tough-as-nails dialogue and the occasional hardboiled simile in this contemporary homage to the genre.

GHOST RIDER #1

Garth Ennis (W); Clayton Crain (A)

(Marvel JUL051868 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (JUL052826 $19.99))

What's The Scoop?

Ghost Rider gets a chance to ride the highway out of hell... but he'll have to follow the trail of a rogue demon if he wants to make his farewell to hell a permanent one!

Why Should You Care?

Garth Ennis gears up for a story that'll have you glad you came along for the ride—but it's the stunning digital art of *Clayton Crain* that'll rev your engines!

GREEN LANTERN CORPS: RECHARGE #1

Geoff Johns & Dave Gibbons (W); Patrick Gleason & Christian Alamy (A)

(DC JUL050227 $3.50; also available in a double-signed edition (JUL052829 $49.99))

What's The Scoop?

DC's ultimate cosmic defense force returns in this limited series that spins out of the events of ***Green Lantern: Rebirth***. The Guardians prepare to revive the Corps under the direction of veteran GLs Guy Gardner, Kyle Rayner and Kilowog, who lead a new generation of Lanterns as they prepare to confront old foes who'd prefer a Green Lantern *Corpse*...

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns, the mastermind behind the return of Hal Jordan, unites with ***Rann/Thanagar War's*** battle-planner *Dave Gibbons* for a saga that redefines the roles of a pair of Green Lanterns whose popularity was eclipsed only by Hal Jordan's.

JLA #118

Geoff Johns & Allan Heinberg (W); Chris Batista & Mark Farmer (A)

(DC JUL050234 $2.50)

JLA #119

Geoff Johns & Allan Heinberg (W); Chris Batista & Mark Farmer (A)

(DC JUL050235 $2.50)

What's The Scoop?

The battle between the JLA and Despero moves from the JLA Watchtower to Earth—and in particular, Wayne Manor—in the final installments of this saga. But will the JLA have to turn against one of their own members in order to stop the evil alien?

Why Should You Care?

Remember the shock you felt upon seeing the final page of ***Wonder Woman #219?*** Well, DC promises that this saga is going to shake things up just as much—and it's going to just as vital to the overall ***Crisis Countdown*** as was the aforementioned ***Wonder Woman***.

LULLABY #1

Ben Avery (W); Mike S. Miller & Hector Sevilla (A)

(Alias JUL052561 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?

Jim Hawkins, Alice, the Pied Piper, Pinocchio, and Little Red Riding Hood—joined by an unusual group of allies— are headed to Oz in this new limited series... but they'll have to confront the menace of Makoma, a small fox who can steal the fairyland people's powers and abilities.

Why Should You Care?

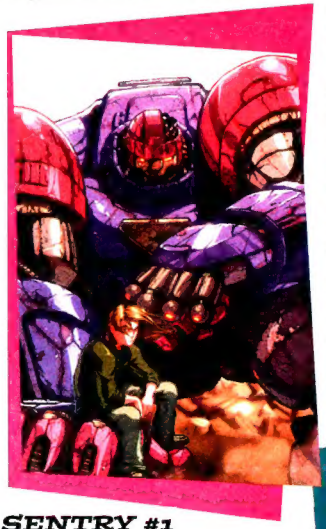
The League of Extraordinary Children's Literature Gentlefolk is back in action—and that's welcome news for fans of all-ages comics!

OZ/WONDERLAND CHRONICLES #0

Ben Avery (W); Casey Heying (A)
(BuyMeToys JUL052737 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?
Alice and Dorothy will have to deal with even more surreal experiences when the Gnome King unites with the Wicked Witch to spread their evil across *two* fantasy realms...

Why Should You Care?
The recent boom in all-ages fantasy has to be a good thing—after all, it's giving us *two* imaginative Oz tales in the same month!



SENTRY #1

Paul Jenkins (W); John Romita Jr. (A)
(Marvel JUL051877 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (JUL052827))

What's The Scoop?
From the pages of ***New Avengers***, Marvel's forgotten hero is back in action in his second limited series. But does the Marvel Universe of today hold a place for the Sentry?

Why Should You Care?
Paul Jenkins, who rewrote Marvel history when he introduced the Sentry several years ago, unites with *uber*-artist *John Romita Jr.* to solve some of the mysteries regarding the hero's recent return to the spotlight.

SEVEN SOLDIERS: MISTER MIRACLE #1

Grant Morrison (W); Pasqual Ferry (A)
(DC JUL050251 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?
Young Shiloh Norman, with the help of his Mother box, has become the world's coolest escape artist... but his world is turned upside down when a being called Metron makes him aware of an apocalyptic cosmic war that's being waged on Earth by human agents... a war that could destroy his world.

Why Should You Care?
Jack Kirby's classic Fourth World escape artist gets a revamp from *Grant Morrison* and ***Adam Strange*** illustrator *Pasqual Ferry*.

SHADOWPLAY #1

Amber Benson & Christina Z (W); Ben Templesmith & Ashley Wood (A)
(IDW JUL052919 $3.99)

What's The Scoop?
IDW tweaks the horror anthology concept with this split-book miniseries that features two different vampire-focused storylines in each issue.

Why Should You Care?
Shadowplay is a must-have for ***Buffy*** fans, thanks to the creative contributions of actress *Amber Benson*, while fans of the Top Cow metaphysical-horror approach will be pleased to see *Christina Z's* return to comics. And artistically, it's hard to top IDW's superstar talents *Ben Templesmith & Ashley Wood*.

SHAZAM/ SUPERMAN: FIRST THUNDER #1

Judd Winick (W); Josh Middleton (A)
(DC JUL050208 $3.50)

What's The Scoop?
Superman's battling cult members who have targeted an ancient artifact in the Metropolis Natural History Museum; Captain Marvel's duking it out with giant robots stomping around Fawcett City. When the cult turns their attention to another artifact in the Fawcett City Museum, though, it's super-team-up time in this untold tale of the first meeting of the Last Son of Krypton and Earth's Mightiest Mortal.

Why Should You Care?
Judd Winick reveals a hitherto-unknown moment in DC history, but *Josh Middleton* is the man who gets to bring it all to life on the printed page—and wait 'til you see his take on DC's mightiest heroes!

SPAWN #150

Brian Holguin & Todd McFarlane (W); Philip Tan, Angel Medina, & Danny Miki (A)
(Image JUL051608 $4.95)

What's The Scoop?
After several years of a comfortable status quo, Spawn's world is about to be shaken up in this double-length issue that introduces a new creative team, a new adversary, and a new direction for the series.

Why Should You Care?
A new creative team is interesting—but a new creative team that includes the direct involvement of ***Spawn***-meister *Todd McFarlane* is big news indeed!

SUPERGIRL #2

Jeph Loeb (W); Ian Churchill & Norm Rapmund (A)
(DC JUL050209 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?
Supergirl versus Superboy! And if that's not enough, the rest of the Teen Titans are in here as well—along with Lex Luthor, who has plans for the Girl of Steel...

Why Should You Care?
Judging by the same-day-sellout of ***Supergirl #1***, you already know the answer to that question!

SUPREME POWER: HYPERION #1

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Dan Jurgens (A)
(Marvel JUL051909 $2.99)

SUPREME POWER: NIGHTHAWK #1

Daniel Way (W); Steve Dillon (A)
(Marvel JUL051910 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?
Two limited series offer new insights into ***Supreme Power's*** most popular stars. In the JMS-penned ***Hyperion***, the Supreme-verse's mightiest hero faces off against four new super-powered individuals who are based on characters from the original Squadron Supreme. Meanwhile, Nighthawk faces a grinning madman who's randomly killing the people of Chicago... wondering if he's leaving any playing cards behind to mark his crimes?...

Why Should You Care?
Like the Justice League? Then you'll love these series that continue the Straczynski-helmed Ultimization of DC's flagship superteam , reinterpreted the Marvel way.

THOR: BLOOD OATH #1

Michael Avon Oeming (W); Scott Kolins (A)
(Marvel JUL051882 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?
Thor may be gone (for now), but there are still plenty of classic tales of Thor's bygone days to be told—and that's just what this eries does. See Thor in his prime, along with Odin, Balder, the Warriors Three, and other Asgardian mainstays as the God of Thunder joins his three allies to prove that they're not guilty of murder. So how do they prove their innocence? Through a grand quest across Midgard, that's how!

Why Should You Care?
Mike Oeming, who's proven his aptitude with heroic fantasy in the ***Hammer of the Gods*** and ***Red Sonja***, restores the mythic glory of the Asgardian hero with this series that harkens back to the Lee-Kirby glory days.

VAMPIRELLA: REVELATIONS

Mike Carey (W); Mike Lilly & Bob Almond
(Anarchy JUL052593 25¢)

What's The Scoop?
In the place where vampires gather to unwind and trade stories over pints of blood, the saga of Vampirella is legendary. Is she real, or just the imagining of vampiric story-tellers? These vampires are about to learn the truth in this preview issue that kicks off a new direction for the sensual vampiric heroine.

Why Should You Care?
Anarchy is so confident in this book that they're offering it for only a quarter—so how can you afford *not* to give it a try?

VIGILANTE #1

Bruce Jones (W); Ben Oliver (A)
(DC JUL050255 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?
Doctor Justin Powell sees criminals as victims of their own childhood traumas who need understanding and compassion. Unfortunately, the Vigilante is short on both... but is that necessarily a bad thing?

Why Should You Care?
Bruce Jones reinvents the classic DC anti-hero in this six-issue series that takes the war on crime to the streets of Metropolis as Vigilante finds himself targeted the underworld, the media, and the authorities in his war on crime.

WILDCATS NEMESIS #1

Robbie Morrison (W); Talent Caldwell, Horacio Domingues, & Matt Banning (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUL050276 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?
Wildcats returns to its cosmic roots in this nine-part limited series that focuses on Kheran rogue warrior Charis Adrastea, aka Nemesis, who seeks to clear her own name and find out the truth about the massacre of Kheran military forces on Earth at the dawn of mankind.

Why Should You Care?
With *Grant Morrison & Jim Lee* set to relaunch ***Wildcats*** next year, this limited series serves as an exciting introduction to the sort of cosmic adventure that marks the once and future ***'Cats***..

WRAITHBORN #1

Joe Benitez & Marcia Chen (W); Joe Benitez & Joe Weems (A)
(WildStorm/DC JUL050295 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?
For millennia, the Wraithborn have kept watch on Earth, using their incredible powers to hold the evil Immortals at bay. Now a timid high school girl gains the power of the Wraithborn... but can she learn how to use those abilities before she falls prey to the Immortals latest onslaught?

Why Should You Care?
Top Cow veterans *Joe Benitez, Marcia Chen, & Joe Weems* bring that studio's distinctive style of metaphysical action-adventure to Wildstorm with this new six-issue series.

X-MEN: COLOSSUS—BLOODLINE #1

David Hine (W); Jorge Lucas (A)
(Marvel JUL051901 $2.99)

What's The Scoop?
Colossus may have returned from the dead, but it's doubtful that his relatives who are being murdered in his homeland will be so lucky. That's why Peter is heading back to Russia, where he'll have to face a murderous villain with links to his own past.

Why Should You Care?
Ever since *Joss Whedon & John Cassaday* brought him back in the pages of ***Astonishing X-Men,*** X-fans have been asking for a solo series starring the metallic mutant—and here it is!

Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading

CONAN #20

(Dark Horse JUL050034 $2.99)
Kurt Busiek & Cary Nord kick off their long-awaited adaptation of *Robert E. Howard's* 'The Tower of the Elephant,' one of the most popular Conan tales of all time.

BLACKSAD VOL 3 TP

(iBooks JUL052909 $12.95)
Juan Diaz Canales & Juanjo Guarnido present the third volume of their addictive anthropomorphic-noir detective series. Don't let the furry characters put you off—you won't find better hardboiled detective comics than this!

KEEP #1

(IDW JUL052929 $3.99)
Novelist *F. Paul Wilson* adapts his own ***New York Times*** best-selling novel of WWII horror in this limited series. Now, let's hope he's going to follow it up with Repairman Jack comics!...

OWLY VOL 3: FLYING LESSONS TP

(Top Shelf JUL053175 $10.00)
Andy Runton presents a third volume of his delightful all-ages graphic novel series, a tale of acceptance and diversity told in a charming animation-art style.

POLLY & THE PIRATES #1

(Oni JUL053015 $2.99)
Polly is caught between the prim-and-proper boarding school set she's grown-up with and the legendary legacy of the Pirate Queen that she never knew she was a part of in this book by *Ted Naifeh*.

SPELLGAME #1

(Speakeasy JUL053065 $2.99)
Stage magician and con man John Dodge finds his whole world turned upside down when real magic begins to creep into our world... and he discovers that he's one of the only people with the innate ability to control that mystical energy! A compelling new reluctant-hero series by *Dan Mishkin, Ramon Perez, & Darwyn Cooke*.

Collected Cool: September's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE BATMAN: HUSH OVERSIZED HC

(DC MAY050191 $49.99 also available in a signed edition (JUL052831 $499.99))
Oversized slipcased edition includes ***Batman #608-619*** as well as the the 2-page origin of Batman by *Jeph Loeb & Jim Lee*, along with *a Jim Lee* Sketchbook and issue-by-issue commentary by the creative team.

BATMAN ILLUSTRATED BY NEAL ADAMS VOL 3 HC

(DC JUL050205 $49.99)
Final volume collecting *Neal Adams's* acclaimed covers and stories featuring the Dark Knight; includes never-before-reprinted work for non-DC sources as well as the classic DC work that redefined Batman for the 1970s and 1980s.

COMPLETE CALVIN & HOBBES HC

(A&M APR053461 $150.00)
Start clearing a shelf now—and add some extra support for this hefty collection featuring every one of the 2400+ *Bill Watterson* strips produced between 1985 and 1996, all compiled in a massive three-volume hardcover slipcased set

IDENTITY CRISIS HC

(DC JUN050351 $24.99)
Collecting the historic superhero suspense tale by *Brad Meltzer, Rags Morales, & Michael Bair*. Bonus features for this special hardcover edition include extended commentary by Meltzer and Morales, the rest of the creative team talking about their favorite moments, a look at Morales's sketchbook, and more.

KAMANDI ARCHIVES VOL 1 HC

(DC JUL050232 $49.99)
Collecting the first ten issues of *Jack Kirby's* post-apocalyptic ***Planet of the Apes***-inspired series.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS: GOLDEN AGE HUMAN TORCH VOL 1

(Marvel JUL051921 $49.99)
Reprinting the first four issues of the Golden Age Human Torch series by Golden Age legend *Carl Burgos*.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS GREEN LANTERN VOL 1 TP

(DC JUL050250 $9.99)

SHOWCASE PRESENTS SUPERMAN VOL 1 TP

(DC JUL050249 $16.99)
DC gets into the black and white phone book-sized field with these two hefty reprint volumes collecting ***Showcase #s 22-24 & Green Lantern #s 1-17*** and ***Superman #s122-133 & Action #s241-257*** respectively. *Wotta bargain!*

Read All About It: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #52

(TwoMorrows JUL053293 $6.95)
Spotlighting *Joe Giella, Julie Schwartz, and Carmine Infantino, & Jay Scott Pike*.

STERANKO DESIGN HYPERTYPE

(Vanguard JUN053280 $34.95 HC; JUN053281 $49.95 signed edition; JUL053197 $24.95 TP)
The first in a series of instructional art books by legendary illustrator and designer *Jim Steranko*.

Hot Commodities: September's Hottest Merchandising/ Collectibles

BATMAN MARIONETTE

(DC Direct MAR050496 $295.00)
Limited to 1500, this fully functional ***Batman Marionette*** includes a Batarang accessory, Bat-shaped hand control, an adjustable black enamel metal stand, and a booklet providing instructions for use.

CLASSIC COMIC CHARACTERS SERIES 1: HELLBOY STATUE

(Dark Horse JUN050073 $49.95)
Rugged syroco-styled statue depicting *Mike Mignola's* famous monster-fighter, complete with retro-style packaging and bonus items.

JLA ACTION FIGURE GIFT SET

(DC Direct MAR050497 $49.99)
Includes Batman with batarang accessory, Superman, Wonder Woman with rope accessory, Green Lantern (John Stewart) with lantern accessory, and a newly created Aquaman figure with left-arm hook hand. Each figure features new head-sculpts and is boxed with a full-size 48-page comic book

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 2 AQUAMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR050500 $19.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 2 BATMAN ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR050501 $19.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 2 BLACK CANARY ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR050502 $19.99)

JUSTICE LEAGUE ALEX ROSS SERIES 2 BLACK MANTA ACTION FIGURE

(DC Direct MAR050503 $19.99)
The second wave of action figure sculpts based on the distinctive painted work of *Alex Ross*.

MARVEL SELECT ULTIMATE CARNAGE ACTION FIGURE

(Diamond Select MAR052444 $19.99)
Diamond Select brings *Mark Bagley's* interpretation of the Ultimate Carnage to life in this deluxe action figure set.

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